

PATENT APPLICATION
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SEAT EDGE REINFORCER

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] A common problem with seating on outdoor maintenance equipment is that the edge of the seats often suffer disproportionate wear to the sitting surface of the seats. Typically, this is caused by mounting and dismounting from the seat.

[0002] Often the seats are made from a foam material covered with a moisture repellant surface. The material covering the edge of the seats often splits, exposing the foam interior. Once the outer covering splits, the seats rapidly become unusable.

[0003] Conventionally, when the edge of the seat cover splits, the seats would be replace, often at a high price. In those industries where outdoor maintenance equipment is frequently used in large quantities, such as golf courses, the cost of replacing seats becomes quite high.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] Figure 1 is an orthogonal view of one embodiment of the present invention seat edge reinforcer, shown partially cut away and installed on a seat.

[0005] Figure 2 is a front view of the seat edge reinforcer shown in Figure 1.

[0006] Figure 3 is a rear view of the seat edge reinforcer shown in Figure 1.

[0007] Figure 4 is a side view of the seat edge reinforcer shown in Figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0008] Illustrated in Figures 1-4 are a seat 2 and a reinforcer 4. Seat 2 includes an edge 6, a sitting surface 8, and optionally, a supporting surface 10 for supporting a users back. In Figure 1, reinforcer 2 is shown partially cut away to reveal edge 6 of seat 2.

[0009] Seat 2 is any seat where it is useful to support the edges 4 to prevent wear or deterioration in excess of sitting surface 8. Seat 2 is not limited to a seat on outdoor maintenance equipment. In one embodiment, reinforcer 4 reduces the wear on edge 6 of seat 2. In an alternate embodiment, reinforcer 4 covers damaged edge 6 of seat 2.

[0010] Reinforcer 4 includes a flexible panel 12 and at least one tightener 14. Flexible panel 12 is tailored to fit edge 6 of seat 2 without covering sitting surface 8

and, optionally, without covering supporting surface 10. Flexible panel 12 is as flexible as is suitable for the purpose of reinforcer 4. In one embodiment, flexible panel 12 is of a durable material suitable for reinforcing edge 6 of seat 2.

[0011] Flexible panel 12 has inner 16 and outer 18 perimeters. Inner 16 and outer 18 perimeters define an opening 20. Flexible panel 12 is sized and configured to encircle edge 6 of seat 2 with sitting surface 8, and optionally supporting surface 10, of seat 2 accessible through opening 20.

[0012] Tightener 14 is secured at inner 16 and outer 18 perimeters for constricting the perimeters 16, 18 about seat edge 6. Constriction of inner 16 and outer 18 perimeters secures reinforcer 4 onto seat 2. In one embodiment, tightener 14 is a single tightener 14 secured to both inner 16 and outer 18 perimeters. In an alternate embodiment, multiple tighteners 14 are secured at inner 16 and outer 18 perimeters. In one embodiment tightener 14 is a drawstring slidably secured at inner perimeter 16, outer perimeter 18, or both perimeters 16, 18. In an alternate embodiment, tightener 14 is one or more elastic strips flexibly secured at inner 16, outer 18 perimeter, or both perimeters 16, 18 and configured to constrict perimeters 16, 18.

[0013] In one embodiment, tightener 14 is further configured to pass through at least one hole 22 in sitting surface 8 of seat 2, as best illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. In an alternate embodiment, each tightener 14 is separated from other tighteners 14.

[0014] In one embodiment, reinforcer 4 surrounds only sitting surface 8, which is accessible through opening 22. In an alternate embodiment, reinforcer 4 surrounds both sitting surface 8 and supporting surface 10, which are both accessible through the opening 22.

[0015] The foregoing description is only illustrative of the invention. Various alternatives and modifications can be devised by those skilled in the art without departing from the invention. Accordingly, the present invention embraces all such alternatives, modifications, and variances that fall within the scope of the appended claims.